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Risk and prognostic factors for pneumonia and choking amongst Parkinson's disease patients with dysphagia

Kwang-Hwee Goh, Sanchalika Acharyya, Samuel Yong-Ern Ng, Jasmine Pei-Ling Boo, Amanda Hui-Juan Kooi, Hwee-Lan Ng, Wei Li, Kay-Yaw Tay, Wing-Lok Au, Louis Chew-Seng Tan

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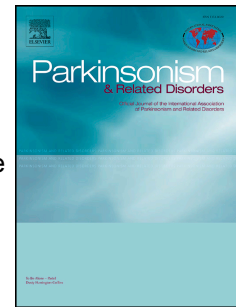
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**Title:** Risk and Prognostic Factors for Pneumonia and Choking amongst Parkinson's disease Patients with Dysphagia

Kwang-Hwee Goh, MRCP<sup>1</sup>; Sanchalika Acharyya, MPH<sup>2</sup>; Samuel Yong-Ern Ng, BPsych<sup>1</sup>; Jasmine Pei-Ling Boo, MSc<sup>3</sup>; Amanda Hui-Juan Kooi, BSpPath<sup>3</sup>; Hwee-Lan Ng, BSc<sup>1</sup>; Wei Li, MSc<sup>1</sup>; Kay-Yaw Tay, MRCP<sup>1,2</sup>; Wing-Lok Au, FRCP<sup>1,2</sup>; Louis Chew-Seng Tan, FRCP<sup>1,2\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Neurology, National Neuroscience Institute, Singapore

<sup>2</sup>Duke-NUS Graduate Medical School, Singapore

<sup>3</sup>Speech Therapy Department, Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Singapore

**Objective:** To evaluate the time to hospitalisation and baseline factors associated with pneumonia/choking in Parkinson's Disease(PD) patients.

**Background:** Although dysphagia and pneumonia are common problems in PD, scarce research has been performed.

**Methods:** A total of 194 PD patients who underwent a VFS evaluation were retrospectively selected. The mode of feeding and admissions for pneumonia/choking were analyzed. Baseline clinical and demographic variables were compared between feeding groups. Kaplan-Meier survival analysis was performed to estimate time to pneumonia/choking. Clinical variables significantly associated with pneumonia/choking free survival were identified using Cox regression.

**Results:** Hospitalisation for pneumonia/choking occurred in 89 out of 194 patients, with the highest admission rate in rejected enteral feeding group (66.7%), followed by enteral feeding (61.8%) and oral feeding (38.8%) groups. The estimates of median

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